

LUMBER MILLS AND CAMPS OF THE FIVE CAMP BROTHERS

Have Made Fortunes in Logging and Lumber Business.

REMARKABLE QUINTETTE

Employ Hundreds of Men in Three States and Run One of the Largest Plants of the Kind in the World.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FRANKLIN, SOUTHAMPTON CO., VA., June 5.—The Camps and the rest of mankind. That is the way the people of this end of Virginia and North Carolina speak of the family of five brothers who operate a number of lumber mills in this section. The family has grown in importance in the last twenty years by reason of the extension of operations in the pine woods of Virginia and Carolina, until the name is a household word, and the Camp Manufacturing Company is as well known as the names of counties, towns and rivers.

I went to Franklin to see the great parent plant of the Camps, to witness the gigantic operations in lumber which are furnishing employment to so many men in mills, on steamboats, on railroads, in lumber camps. I had not thought to study the camps, but more interesting to me even than the great enterprises which these men direct were the men themselves.

The story of the Camps reads like romance. Almost within sight of the big office building from which they direct the affairs of their great company, the Camps were born. There were nine brothers. Four of them are dead. Four of them bore arms for the Confederacy, and when the war ended those who were alive came home to find their families without money, without property, and almost without food. There were at home then four little brothers, the eldest, Paul, only sixteen years of age. They all went to work. People of Franklin remember him, frequently seeing Paul driving a yoke of oxen, hauling logs to the little saw mill, on the site of which is now the great saw and planing mills of the company.

They prospered. "I was trying to say what I made," was the significant and characteristic reply, as he held in the beautiful bays behind which we were driving about the pretty town.

After working a few years at Franklin Mr. Camp and his brothers went to North Carolina in 1878. He engaged in the milling business there, and in 1880 his brother, Mr. J. L. Camp, was admitted to the firm. The brothers were prospering. They were saving now about 5,000,000 feet a year, a small fraction of the amount saved and dressed by the great concern today. Their minds turned back to Franklin. It was not homesickness, but they had a natural desire to locate at home and uphold their native community and enjoy prosperity close to the spot where they were born.

So the brothers bought the saw mill at Franklin from R. J. and W. Neely in 1888. This mill was only a small one. But it was not long before such improvements had been made that the mill was producing 12,000,000 feet a year. In November, 1887, the Camp Manufacturing Company was organized. It was strictly a family affair. Paul Camp became its president, Robert the secretary and treasurer, and the three other brothers were made either officers or directors. The next year the Franklin plant was changed to a band saw mill, and nearly every week since some improvement or addition has been made, until the present enormous plant, fitted with machinery of the latest patent.

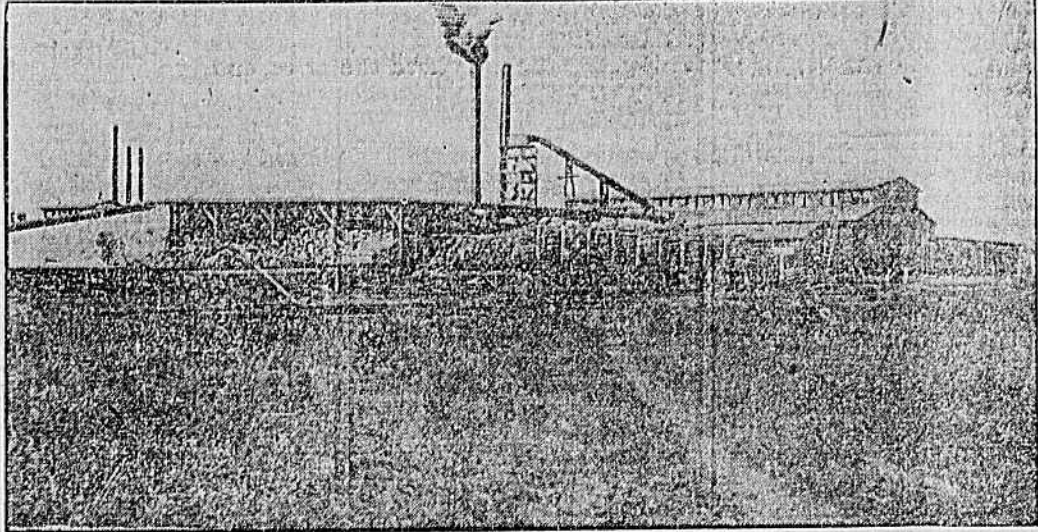
The Franklin mills alone give employment to 387 men, ten or twelve more are employed on the tugboats used to bring the logs up the Blackwater to the mill, and there is a large office force necessary to keep the great business of the company going. Night and day the saws are kept going, and 175,000 feet of lumber is turned out every twenty-four hours. The enormous storage shed is capable of housing 8,000,000 feet under roof. Sixteen dry kilns are necessary for the drying of the stock. Eleven complete sets of machinery are used in the planing mill for the reduction of the rough lumber to flooring, ceiling and the dressed material of every kind.

The plant covers many acres. It is on the bank of the Blackwater, on the left of the bridge that carries the road over the river to the mills and gazed at the wilderness of stocks and clouds of steam that rise from the great enclosure, and listened to the snarling of saws and planes that is deafening. I wondered at the executive ability displayed in carrying on such a great enterprise. Later I was to learn of the company's mills at Arlingdale, on the Southern road, twenty-one miles west of Franklin, and which has a capacity of 6,000 feet a day; of the plant at Do Wit, in Dinwiddie county, eighteen miles south of Petersburg, with a capacity of 50,000 feet daily, and the Sandy Point mill, at Berkeley, which cuts 35,000 feet of lumber a day.

Further still, I learned of the great mills of the company at White Springs, in northern Florida, which are supplied with logs from the company's own forests, extending over many thousands of acres in that State and Georgia, the phosphate beds owned and worked by the brothers at Albion, Fla.; and then the numerous lumber camps, where the logs are being cut in Virginia and North Carolina. There are over fifty miles of railroad owned and operated by the company in the woods of the two States. The logs are hauled from the forests to the Chowan or Blackwater Rivers, and then rafted up by means of tugboats and keels. Thousands of acres of timber are owned by the brothers in Southampton, Nansemond, Greensville, and Brunswick counties in Virginia, and in Gates, Perquimans, Hertford, Bertie, Northampton and Halifax counties, North Carolina.

SUPPLIES THE MILL.
To Mr. Paul Camp, the President of the company, is committed the duty of keeping all the mills supplied with logs. It is a great undertaking, and the very thought that upon him rests the responsibility of keeping those mills going would seem to be overwhelmingly. But he stands up under it, and seems to enjoy the work. Indeed, in addition to being on the constant lookout for timber land for sale, and busied with the work of rafting or railroading the logs to the mills, he finds time to enjoy himself, and also looks after other matters. He is a great big, foot-loose, cheerful, genial, lovable, good or good story, fond of his pretty horses and his beautiful home and grounds, and with time for the manifestation of active interest in the affairs of the town and of the Baptist Church here, of which the Camp brothers are members. But I cannot imagine Mr. Camp or any of that family, ever getting so far into pleasure to be ready to turn to business at a minute's notice. Business—work—these are always in the minds of the brothers, and it is this that has made them rich.

Mr. Robert J. Camp, the secretary and treasurer of the company, looks after all the office work. It has for years been the

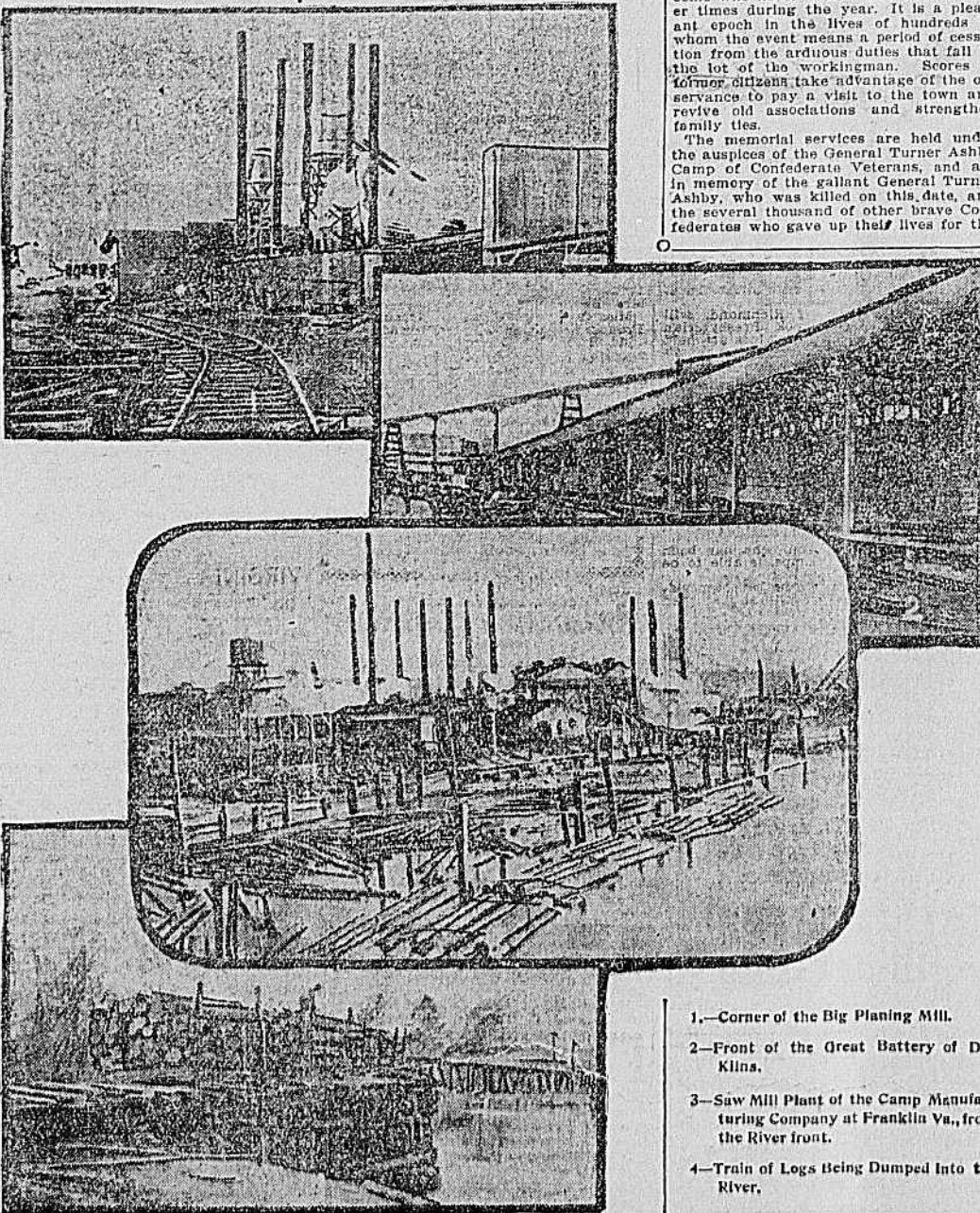


BOX FACTORY AND SAW MILL OF THE EMPORIA MANUFACTURING CO.

rule of the company to assign to each brother a specific duty in connection with the company's business. Paul looks after getting the logs to the mills, Robert attends to the office work, J. L. Camp sees to the operation of all the mills, W. M. and B. F. Camp run the Florida mills and work their phosphate mines in that State.

There is a local story current here to the effect that the father of the Camp brothers years ago used the bundle of sticks to illustrate to his sons the necessity of unity, showing them how the bundle could not be broken, though each stick could be broken with ease. I do not know that this is true, but it is certain that while each brother has assigned to him particular duties in the management of the affairs of the company, when any unusual steps is contemplated, all the brothers confer, and each has an equal voice in the matter.

It is impossible to imagine men more directly the opposite of those who labor to obtain public popularity. Plain, and direct in the matter of speech, manner and dress, men of few words, all of them, they are retiring rather than otherwise. Yet, every man and woman, perhaps every child in Suffolk, is known to them, and one is never passed without a salutation and frequently a kindly word. And on every hand, particularly in church and school work, there are monuments to their benevolence and generosity. The brothers are never approached by church workers of any denomination in Franklin that they do not cheerfully respond. The beautiful new Baptist Church just completed is largely the result of their generosity.



SAW AND PLANING MILLS OF CAMP MANUFACTURING CO., FRANKLIN, VA.

ault of the generosity of the Camps. The twenty-five hundred dollar pipe-organ is the gift of one of the brothers, who lives in Florida. Paul, J. L. and Robert J. Camp live in Franklin. All have beautiful homes. Mr. J. L. Camp's residence, on an eminence in the suburbs overlooking the town, is one of the handsomest homes I have seen in a long time. The home of Mr. Paul D. Camp, nearby, is also a beautiful place, but his brother's has the advantage of situation. Mr. Robert Camp's home in the town, is the equal in appearance and elegance of many more pretentious city residences.

ALL YOUNG COMPATIVELY. All these brothers are yet comparatively young men. Their combined wealth goes up into the millions some distance. Yet there is no thought of their retirement. Indeed, expansion is in their minds. Mr. Robert J. Camp showed me a map of their lands in Florida, bounded on two sides by the Suwannee River, and discussed a plan they have in mind to fence the property on the other two sides

and convert it into a great cattle range when the timber is all cut. And thus it goes. The magnitude of the company's business is already staggering, but it is constantly growing. Just recently the brothers have united with the Wiley, Harter & Co., of New York City, forming the Wiley, Harter & Camp Company, which is to be the sole agent of the lumber mills of the two companies. The brothers are particular to state that the ownership of their properties is in no wise affected by the formation of a new company. The Camps own fifty per cent. of the stock of the Wiley, Harter & Camp Company.

The business of the Camp Company extends all over this country, and a great deal of lumber is exported. I sat in Mr. Robert Camp's office for some time and listened to him dictate letters to his stenographer. I was interested in nothing only that he was writing to lumber dealers in every section of this country and Europe.

North Carolina pine, as the pine which grows chiefly in Eastern North Carolina, Eastern Virginia, and is also found in limited portions of South Carolina, Maryland and New Jersey, has made the Camps. But it is true that they have done a great deal to make North Carolina pine the pre-eminent place in the lumber markets of the world. This pine, by reason of being so rich in lumber, sap, gums and albumen, and also because of the warmth and dampness of the climate, stains very easily. Under the old primitive methods of manufacture, the propensity to discoloration deprived the lumber of much of its value. But the Camps have been in the forefront in the introduction of methods designed to ob-

are so common in the turpentine orchards that there are many chances that the trees will be destroyed before they can be gotten to the mills. When the trees are "boxed" for turpentine, the leaves and twigs on the ground about it are raked away for a distance of several feet, so as to prevent a wild fire reaching the turpentine in the box. But when the turpentine season is over, the pine needles fall to the ground all around the tree, and it is during this season that a fierce fire sweeps over large areas of the pine forests. When fire gets into a turpentine box the tree is almost certain to burn down, and the flames burn so fiercely that they cannot be prevented from sweeping hundreds, and even thousands of acres. And when territory is thus cleared of its timber, there is nothing for the turpentine man and the lumberman to do but wait.

And so it will be when the fires and the saw mills have caused the disappearance of all the pine forests of Virginia and North Carolina, the mill men will have to wait for a new growth. WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

A Leading Event in the Shenandoah Valley.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WINCHESTER, VA., June 6.—Confederate Memorial day was observed here yesterday. Year by year this occasion has increased in importance, and has come to be recognized as the leading event in the lower portion of the Shenandoah Valley. The residents of the countryside flock to town on this day, and many come who never visit Winchester at other times during the year. It is a pleasant epoch in the lives of hundreds to whom the event means a period of cessation from the arduous duties that fall to the lot of the workingman. Scores of former citizens take advantage of the observance to pay a visit to the town and revive old associations and strengthen ties.

Memorial services are held under the auspices of the General Turner Ashby Camp of Confederate Veterans, and are in memory of the gallant General Turner Ashby, who was killed on this date, and the several thousand of other brave Confederates who gave up their lives for the

A BIG SUIT OVER A GATE

A Case That Concerns Many People in the County.

IT AFFECTS STOCK RAISING

An Army of Candidates for the Various County Offices—The Rapid Growth of Colonial Beach is Remarkable.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
COMORN, VA., June 6.—Last Monday was "rules day" at King George Court-house, and among the chancery cases docketed was a suit against a citizen of this county for erecting a gate across a farm-road. The case is a peculiar one, and is attracting unusual attention because of the fact that points are involved in which hundreds of people are interested.

Several years ago a large tract of land near here was divided up into a number of farms and sold by a special commissioner to several different persons. A right of way was reserved through one of the farms for the use, as an outlet, of the owner of one of the adjoining farms. The several purchasers set to work to enclose and otherwise improve their tracts of land. In the meantime, the owner of the farm through which the right of way was reserved erected a gate across this reserved road, and simultaneously sent a key of the gate-lock to the party for whom the road was reserved. A nearby fishing shore, etc., attracted constant travel day and night through the farm, so that the gate was often left open, turning cattle on the adjoining crops and causing endless trouble. It was for the protection of the crops and the keeping of the cattle that the gate was locked.

TWO WAYS OF LOOKING AT IT.
The party who erected the gate understood from the phraseology of the deed of conveyance that the right of way was reserved only for the use of the owner of the adjoining farm, and naturally concluded that as long as the party had possession of the key to the gate no inconvenience could grow out of locking the gate.

raising, and farming cannot be successfully conducted without fences, and fences are of no use without gates. And it is understood that both parties to this gate controversy will be represented by the ablest counsel that can be obtained here.

MANY OFFICERS.

The army of candidates for the various county and district offices of King George is growing larger each week, and it is understood that to be one of the most interesting and spirited contests in the history of the county. Mr. James H. Boggs, for years a public school teacher and deputy treasurer, has formally declared himself a candidate for the office of commissioner of the revenue. It looks as if there will be half a dozen candidates for this office. Several of the leading young men of the county are candidates for the county treasurership. Among them are Mr. J. Thomas Minor, of this place, and Mr. H. B. Coghill, of King George Court-house.

A goodly number of patriotic mortals want to succeed Mr. William N. Hefflin as high sheriff. It is not known as yet whether or not Mr. Hefflin will ask to be re-elected.

The county clerkship is a plum for which several mighty good-men have a "hankering."

It is understood that the Republicans will put some of their strongest men in the field as candidates for several of the most desirable offices—the sheriffship, clerkship and treasurership.

It is reported in the county that all parts of the county that ex-Judge Charles H. Ashton will be the Democratic candidate for Commonwealth's Attorney, in opposition to Mr. W. A. Rose, the present incumbent, who is a Republican.

CRAB FISHING.

Some small lots of crabs are being caught along the King George shore of the Potomac, and it is believed that crabbing season will open this year several weeks earlier than usual.

The warehouse and pier-head of Stuffs wharf, on the Potomac River, are being remodeled and greatly improved. The rapid growth of Colonial Beach is a subject of general comment. There are already five hundred buildings in the little town. The merry-go-round just erected there is said to have cost \$7,000. Sergeant Billingsley says that, notwithstanding the fact that from 10,000 to 15,000 people are at the Beach each day during the season, the number of arrests does not exceed three or four in the course of a month.

Mr. Michael Wallace, of Washington, is a guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Wallace, near this place.

Mr. William Taylos has treated his handsome "Powhatan" residence, near here, to a coat of paint. The work was done by a Frederickburg painter, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Stafford county, has gone to Drexler, O., to spend some time with relatives.

LARGE PICKLE CROP.

It is said that the prospects for a large pickle crop in Stafford and the extreme upper end of King George were never brighter and more encouraging, and that higher prices will be paid for pickles this year than usual.

moved to Westmoreland county, for permanent residence.

IN BUSY CHESTER

Many Signs of Thrift Are Visible Over There.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
CHESTER, VA., June 6.—There are more signs of improvement in Chester than for years. More and finer buildings are being erected, and a new store is in process of construction. The Chester Lumber Company is doing a thriving business, and is selling and shipping a quantity of material.

A lecturer for the Junior Order of American Mechanics spoke here last night at the public schoolhouse on the benefits of that order, and will appear again on Thursday night to establish a lodge.

Contracts have been let for the painting of the Methodist Church and parsonage, and the members are being stirred for the Children's Day exercises and the approaching district conference. Rev. Mr. Street, a Baptist minister from the West, preached in the Methodist Church here last Sunday evening and greatly pleased all who attended.

Mr. R. H. Bruce and wife, from Amelia, were in the village this week, looking after the hotel property which they recently purchased here.

A picking company is cultivating twenty acres of bottom land in cucumbers, rented of Captain James L. Sneed.

The cannery which was to be established here is a failure, owing to the beginning and the withdrawal of the proprietor, after entering into agreement with the farmers.

Mrs. Harry Perdue and family, from Richmond, are stopping in the village on a visit.

Mr. H. D. Elshelberger is contemplating moving his family for the summer to Baltimore.

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\$165

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STIEFF,

431 E. Broad.

J. E. DUNBAR, Mgr.